UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26236
4 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a fax-transmitted copy of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia of 2 August 1993, regarding Security Council resolution 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 2 August 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia appreciates the continuing interest of the international community and especially the Security Council in finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shares the concern expressed by the Security Council in its resolution 853 (1993) regarding the recent escalation of military operations in the region. This escalation is the result of the mistrust between the parties to the conflict, the impact of the domestic situation in Baku on the military situation, the differences between the interests of countries in the region and the cumulative effect of the blockades.

In this regard, Security Council resolution 853 (1993) is an important step in removing the obstacles to the establishment of a durable cease-fire.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes especially the Council's recognition, as expressed in resolution 853 (1993), of the importance of direct contacts between the parties to the conflict, which, in our evaluation, is an expression of support for the Baku-Stepanakert dialogue. Without contradicting the logic of the Minsk process, the dialogue between the parties to the conflict is the most efficient way to achieve mutual trust. In the case of support by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), these direct contacts could become a practical basis for the achievement of a durable cease-fire. Armenia is confident that the Minsk Group and its chairmanship could make the best use of the dialogue established between the two parties.

Significant also in Security Council resolution 853 (1993), is the condemnation of attacks on civilians and bombardments of inhabited areas, which undoubtedly refers to the military operations undertaken by Azerbaijan against Kapan, Vardenis and Stepanakert.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia welcomes the appeals for the lifting of the blockades and the opening of all roads to humanitarian assistance and, in its turn, appeals to all sides to follow Armenia's example by opening the roads passing through their territories.

Armenia expresses deep concern about any statement, including any reference in Security Council resolution 853 (1993), which attempts to predetermine the outcome of the Minsk Conference. The Republic of Armenia expresses the hope that hereinafter, the international community, comprehending the threat to the lives and security of the people of Nagorny Karabakh, will demonstrate a more balanced position on these issues.

Armenia calls upon all parties to refrain from military operations and provocations, and continues to believe that the United Nations-supported CSCE Minsk process remains the best forum for the resolution of the conflict.